

# **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **Our vision**

The vision statement of Gorse Hill Baptist Church is knowing God, to make him known.

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

## **Definitions**

Gorse Hill Baptist Church definitions within the safeguarding policy and proceedings are as follows:

- Children – This relates to anyone under the age of 18 years old.
- Adults at risk – An adult at risk is any person who is aged 18 years or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and/or support.
- Responsible adult – this is the adult responsible for a child or children which they arrive with. This may be a grandparent, adult sibling, parent or adult bringing the child to church.

## **Our safeguarding responsibilities**

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers**

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safer working practices**

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer community**

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

- **Responsible Adult responsibilities**

Within the church, the responsible adults are responsible for their children prior, during and after services and before and after events that the church runs. The church only assumes responsibility when the events or Kidzone are in progress. Responsible adults are required to pick up under 11's promptly after services or events have ended and keep their children with them until the groups have tidied up with the leaders leaving the room.

### **Safeguarding contact points within our church**

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:



#### **Vicki Payn, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

Vicki will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone number: 01793 545949

Email address: [safeguarding@ghbc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ghbc.org.uk)



#### **Hilary Williams, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS) and designated person for completing DBS checks**

Hilary will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. Hilary will also ensure that the workers, trustees and volunteers complete DBS checks where possible and renewed promptly to be kept within date.

Phone number: 07929 213567

Email address: [safeguarding@ghbc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ghbc.org.uk)

**David Nye, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)**

David will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. David will also assist with completing DBS checks.

Phone number:

Email address: [safeguarding@ghbc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ghbc.org.uk)

**Rebecca Tromans, Safeguarding Trustee**

Rebecca will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees. Rebecca will also oversee investigations and will take active involvement with complex safeguarding investigations or issues within the church.

Phone number: 01793 784847

Email address: [safeguarding@ghbc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ghbc.org.uk)

Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise.

**Putting our policy into practice**

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and church office and available on the church website.
- Each worker and volunteer with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures either physically or electronically. Each worker and volunteer will be asked to sign the log within the Safeguarding folder held within the church office to confirm that they will follow them. These signatures will be refreshed every 3 years.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM.